

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 are pending, Claims 1-9 having been amended, and Claims 10-11 having been added by way of the present amendment. No new matter is added.

With regard to new Claim 11, new Claim 11 is drafted to avoid a construction under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; Claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 8-9 were rejected as being anticipated by Blewett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,131,141, hereinafter Blewett); Claim 2 was rejected as being unpatentable over Blewett in view of Ogle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,736, hereinafter Ogle); Claim 4 was rejected as being unpatentable over Blewett in view of Beck (U.S. Patent No. 6,671,273); and Claim 7 was rejected as being unpatentable over Blewett in view of Winkler (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0070100).

In reply, each of Claims 1-9 has been amended, consistent with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to identify mutually agreeable claim language.

Claim 9 has been amended to define a computer program product. Thus, because a computer program product is an article of manufacture, amended Claim 9 complies with 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to an information processing apparatus. It includes means for managing settings for connectable networks as profiles on a network by network basis. The apparatus also includes means for detecting a first connection to a detected

network and means for determining whether the managing means manages a managed profile corresponding to the detected network when the detecting means has detected the first connection to the detected network. Lastly, amended Claim 1 includes means for automatically establishing a second connection to the detected network based on the managed profile if the determination means determines that the managing means manages the managed profile corresponding to the detected network.

In a non-limiting example, the specification at page 12 provides an example of a terminal 10 that uses software to automatically switch a connection between two different networks. A switcher 51 detects a switching of the connected network 2. Upon detecting the switching of the connected network 2, the switcher 51 determines whether a profile relating to a detected network 2 is present among profiles stored in the storage mechanism 18 (see e.g., specification, pages 12 and 13). Thus, the amendment to Claim 1, which defines means for automatically establishing a second connection to the detected network is supported by the present specification and adds no new matter.

Blewett is directed to a method and apparatus for securely connecting a plurality of networks. At column 11, line 65 to column 12, line 18, Blewett explains different routing rules used to route packets through a network. As explained in Blewett, the routing rules themselves determine the interface through which a packet will be sent according to the destination address. Different first, second and third rules route a particular packet based on a destination IP address.

Comparing amended Claim 1 with Blewett, amended Claim 1 requires “establishing means for automatically establishing a second connection to the detected network based on the managed profile if the determination means determines that the managed means manages the managed profile corresponding to the detected network.” Blewett, on the other hand,

does not automatically establish a second connection to the detected network. On the other hand, Blewett uses particular rules that routes a particular packet to a particular destination, based on the destination IP address contained in the packet. Thus, Blewett is deficient with regard to providing any teaching or suggestion of a means for automatically establishing a second connection to the detected network, as claimed. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 8-9, as amended, all patentably define over Blewett.

Although Claims 2, 4 and 7 are rejected based on the combination of Blewett in view of a secondary reference, it is respectfully submitted that none of the secondary references cure the deficiency discussed above with regard to Blewett, namely including a means for automatically establishing a second connection to the detected network.... Thus it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 4 and 7, as amended, patentably distinguish over the asserted prior art.

Claim 10 is believed to patentably define over the asserted prior art as Claim 10 depends from Claim 3 which was discussed above as patentably distinguishing over the asserted prior art.

Likewise, as previously discussed Claim 11 is consistent with Claim 1, but has been drafted to avoid a construction under 35 USC § 112, sixth paragraph. Nevertheless, the features of Claim 11 are believed to patentable define over the asserted prior art for at least the same reason as discussed above with regard to Claim 1, as amended.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-11, as amended, is definite, defines statutory subject matter, and is patentably distinguishing over the asserted

prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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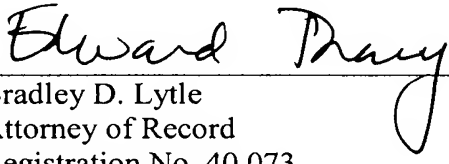
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